



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

WEST KENT WI NEWS

westkentnews@wkfwi.org.uk

OCTOBER 2026



***LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ALL TO
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAIDSTONE ON
WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER AT 11AM.
IF POSSIBLE PLEASE BRING A PEW END WREATH***

See page 11 for full information



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

As I'm writing this, the weather has become decidedly autumnal, at times, but has brought with it some much needed rain. The lawns are now looking a bit more lawn like instead of a brown, crispy desert.

There have been several Federation events, Auditions day which saw six new speakers successfully added to our speaker book. The Federation Speaker Day featured some excellent speakers and all of our members and visitors went away having learned all manner of new things.

Several members came to Ethel Hunt Lodge, to meet the Team and also enjoy tea and cake. A WI event would not be complete without those essential items. The Team, comprising of Trustees, WI Advisors, Office Staff, Events Team and the Archivists, had an excellent time meeting all of you. and, because it was WI day, many of us wore purple and pictures were taken, in trios, to send to National. I hope those ladies came away with a better picture of what your Federation does for you. We may even have been lucky enough to have recruited one or two. If anyone fancies coming along as an observer, either in person or on Zoom, they would be more than welcome to try us out.

During October we will be getting ready for our Autumn Events: Singing at Hadlow, Whist at Ryarsh and our first craft session: making a patchwork Mug Rug, at Ethel Hunt Lodge.

And, finally, the "C" word is starting to look a little closer and preparations will, if not be being started are certainly being thought about.

Sarah

Treasurer's Corner



In an earlier column I said from time-to-time I would explore some topics raised by Treasurers and recently there have been two - related to different aspects of fundraising - which I would like to share with you.

Firstly – Gift Aid.

WI members may wish to make a greater financial contribution to WI with their Subs by considering Gift Aid. However, there are Tax rules to comply with before doing this.

Subs qualify as a donation for Gift Aid provided that a member:

- has paid at least as much Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in the tax year to cover the Gift Aid claimed.
- has made a Gift Aid declaration using the proper form.
- has not received benefits worth more than 25% of the WI share of the subscription paid. If a WI charges visitors a fee to attend meetings it is likely that this requirement will not be met.

Additionally, the WI must be registered as a charity for tax purposes with HMRC before claiming Gift Aid for the first time. This is different to being registered with the Charity Commission

WIs can only claim Gift Aid in respect of the WI share of the subscription.

Please refer to the NFWI's document on Gift Aid available in mywi for more information <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances/gift-aid/WI-Gift-Aid-Guidance-2026.pdf>

Secondly – Fundraising for other causes

WI members may feel strongly about a national or local cause and wish to raise funds for it. This is allowed but the cause must meet WI Charitable Objectives:

- To advance the education of women and girls for the public benefit in all areas.
- To promote sustainable development for the public benefit.
- To advance health for the public benefit.
- To advance citizenship for the public benefit by the promotion of civic responsibility and volunteering.

When considering supporting a cause WIs must consider the following:

- Have members discussed what causes(s) are important to them and your WI?
- Have these causes been checked against WI charitable objects to ensure they are compatible?
- Will the funds have a wider public benefit, reaching more than just an individual or small group?
- Is your WI confident that the charity benefitting is well managed and accountable, and that their activities are managed legally and ethically?
- Will your WI be able to articulate the benefit and impact of the funds raised to your members?

Please refer to the NFWI's document on Fundraising available in mywi for more information <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances/fundraising-guidelines>

This month's inspiring Treasurers quote – "A treasurer's work is invisible, but their impact is undeniable."

Events 2026

Members are encouraged to get involved—join the Events committee, volunteer at an event, or share ideas on what you'd like to see. Below are some “dates for your diary”, be part of making 2026 a great year of events.

Please contact the Federation if you or your WI would like to have a stall on any of our Federation Days .

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026

October	Tues	6	Singing Day	Hadlow
	Wed	14	Make a Mug Rug	Ethel Hunt Lodge
	Thurs	29	Whist	Ryarsh Village Hall
November	Tues	3	Bead Jewellery workshop	Ethel Hunt Lodge
	Tues	10	Quiz North	Charlton Park RFC
	Mon	16	Quiz South	Masonic Hall, Tunbridge Wells
	Thurs	19	Learn the art of Cobra Knot	Ethel Hunt Lodge
December	Wed	2	Carol Service	All Saints Church, Maidstone
2027				
March	Wed	17	WKFWI AGM	Woodville, Gravesend

When applying for Federation Events, please note the closing date is **NOT** the date to apply, but the final date when applications can be made. Please apply for your member's tickets as soon as possible. Late applications can cause events to be cancelled and cancellation fees paid to venues and speakers.



Istead Rise WI sends warmest wishes and congratulations to past WKFWI Chairman **JANET JONES** and her husband **KEITH** who celebrate the occasion of their Diamond Wedding on the 1 October.

Staplehurst WI members were pleased to congratulate **PAM PAYNE**, their secretary, and her husband **PETER** on the occasion of their recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Federation Noticeboard for October 2026

We are sorry to inform you that Edenbridge Afternoon WI was suspended in September.

List of Speakers

Sophie asked not to be included in our '2026/2027 List of Speakers' so her details are not listed. However, she has since asked to be reinstated and her details are provided below.

Miss Sophie Brigden Tunbridge Wells
Tel No: 07796 686906
Email: sophie@sophiebrigden.com Website: www.sophiebrigden.com
Fee: £130 plus 45p per mile travel expenses if over 15 miles

Available at all times except August Available at short notice

Subject:
Bullying, Trauma and Stress: Beyond Resilience and Endurance

Have you taken full advantage of your VIA membership yet? There is a fantastic range of courses available. With a mix of completely free resources and top-tier paid training, it is the perfect way to upskill at your own pace. Discover the courses waiting for you and take the next step in your professional journey!

<https://via.thewi.org.uk/dashboard>



Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk

GREEN TEAM TRIP TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

A Green Team visit to the 'Future of Food' Exhibition at the Science Museum proved to be a fascinating experience examining the topic of the changes that must come about in food production in order to protect the planet. It covered how our food currently travels from field to plate, how this happened in the past, and how major advances in ecology and technology are changing what we will eat in the future.

With ever growing concerns about the effects of climate change, and the environmental damage often caused by the actions of man, it was good to see some of the amazing things that are happening with Norway for example having created ice-cold seed vaults to help conserve the all-important genetic diversity of our plants. We also learnt about a new method of producing palm oil by fermentation which would hopefully stop the current demand for the clearance of land for its production.

A large multi-player game gave us the opportunity to try create our own future for food, and stories from community food projects showed how we are making positive strides in reducing the environmental impacts of the food we buy, cook and eat. We certainly went home with much "food for thought".



On 29 July, **HOLLINGBOURNE WI** was invited by member Alison to enjoy their annual August picnic in the pleasant grounds of Parkwood Trout Farm. Although it was yet another very hot day, Alison had thoughtfully erected a gazebo to keep the twelve members who attended comfortably cool. The photo certainly shows proof of their enjoyment, and a few ladies bought some trout to take home.



At **WATERINGBURY WI'S** last meeting before the summer break we invited along Pete Benson to our meeting. He had some very interesting stories about film props and Super Stars, Elizabeth Taylor being one of them. It's surprising what goes on behind the scenes of a film set and what led him to this line of work in the first place.
Sharon Goshawk President

Late July and the weather had been so hot so a group of ladies from **WATERINGBURY WI** got together for a little trip along the Medway River. We went through a couple of locks and were able to help the crew open and close them. We stopped to have a picnic lunch, fed the ducks and then made our way home. It was a lovely morning and nice and cool on the river.
Sharon Goshawk President



Events 2026

FEDERATION ANNUAL WHIST DAY

Thursday 29 October

Ryarsh Village Hall, Birling Road, Ryarsh, ME19 5LS

10.30 am—3.30pm (Doors open at 10.00am for registration and tea/coffee)

Ticket price £18.00 includes lunch — members only.

Our Whist Day, with Ploughman's lunch and dessert, is always popular. We look forward to welcoming many familiar faces and hopefully some new players. You do not have to attend as a pair, single players are welcome and you will be put with another solo member.

The cards will be shuffled, score sheets named and play will commence at 10.30 am sharp,

When applying for tickets please let us know of any special dietary requirements, we need to know for when we go shopping - not as a surprise on the day.

Please apply for tickets, as per the back page, by supplying the required information by **Monday 5 October**

We require the following information:

Name of person applying and a contact phone number.

Your WI, the number of tickets requested, the names of the players and if they have any special dietary requirements.

Your WI will be invoiced for the number of tickets issued.

If you can, please bring your own mug/cup for your hot drinks at registration and lunch.



Our wonderful ladies, Lesley and Angela from **CROCKENHILL WI** have given us another masterpiece this time, it's a 'Summer-Beach scene.' Thank you for lighting up our village with your amazing skills.
Cheri Yeates
Vice President.



HURST WI held their first Summer Fete on Saturday 4 July. The event hosted a dog show, a local dance group, a singer, as well as lots of stalls, BBQ, Tea Room, and Bar. It was opened by LB Bexley The Past Mayor Christine Catterall and was well supported by members of the local community as well as our members and their families. As a result, an amazing £1102.86 was raised!! A good donation was made to a local charity called Speakability who support members of the local

community with their speech following a stroke and other brain trauma.

President Mary Pring said "We are overwhelmed with the success of this event and the amount of money raised. It was lovely to see so many members of the local community attending. We are looking forward to continued success with our Christmas Fayre on 28 November and another Summer Fete next year. Just watch this space!" Jackie Greenwood, Secretary



Events 2026

Bead Jewellery with Alison Ripley

Tuesday 3 November – Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury, TN2 4AG

Cost per session (includes kit): Members £15 | Non-Members £20

Priority given to Members.

Please choose one session to attend:

- **Morning Session:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (*Doors open 9:30 am*)
- **Afternoon Session:** 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Please bring a mug for your tea/coffee which will be served on arrival.



Please will WI Reps indicate on the application (see back page) whether member will be attending the morning session or the afternoon session.

Closing date Friday 23 October.



SHIPBOURNE WI's outing this year was to Hall Place, Bexley. Our ticket included a tour of the house - built in Tudor times but with considerable changes over the centuries, the tour concluded in the museum, full of interesting artefacts including those left from WW2 when American soldiers used the site as a



listening post, after which it was occupied by a school until the 1950's. The extensive grounds also included a fascinating topiary and the London Butterfly House. All furniture and fittings had been auctioned off by Lady Limerick, the last private resident, but the remaining bath made up for the mostly empty rooms!

Helen Leach



The FARLEIGHS WI are awestruck!

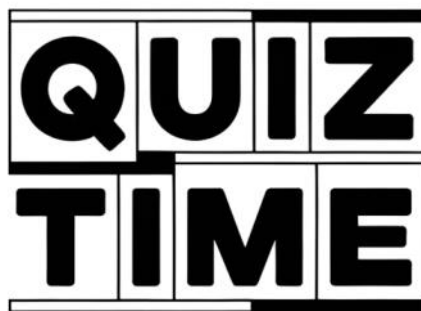
As our August monthly meeting coincided with the eclipse we



decided to enjoy the experience together. A bulk pack of eclipse glasses was purchased from Amazon and handed out as a hush descended over the group. As we reminisced about our whereabouts during the last eclipse in 1999, many of us realised that we would probably not be around for the next one, so it was all rather special.



Events 2026



West Kent WIs Get Ready to Rack Your Brains!

Calling all masterminds, trivia titans, and knowledge seekers!

Join us for afternoons of fun, friendly competition, and brain-teasing questions that will put your general knowledge to the ultimate test! Gather your smartest friends, form a team, and prepare for an exciting challenge.

Don't miss out afternoons of laughter, learning, and lively competition!

Please only request tickets through your WI Rep. Members only.

WI Reps please apply for tickets via tickets@wkfwi.org.uk

Charlton Park RFC

Tuesday 10 November

Doors open at 1.15pm – prompt start at 1.45-3.30pm

Charlton Park RFC, 60A Broad Walk, London, SE3 8NB

Complimentary table snacks, drinks can be purchased at the bar

The ultimate prize for the sharpest minds!

Max 6 per team. £5 per member

Closing date– Saturday 17 October

Quiz Afternoon Extravaganza! Now open to all London WI's

Tunbridge Wells

Monday 16 November 1pm (time to be confirmed)

Masonic Hall, St. John's Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9UY

Free car park. Max 6 per team - £5 per member. Bring your own drinks and snacks

Whether you are a master of general knowledge, a history enthusiast, or a creative expert, there is a question tailored just for you. It is the perfect opportunity to showcase your brainpower, celebrate our community spirit, and enjoy a wonderful social gathering with fellow members.

Dust off your thinking caps and bring your sharpest wit—we cannot wait to see you there!

Closing date Saturday 17 October Please specify date/location on ticket application

Hot weather didn't stop us! **HIGHGATE HAWKHURST WI** held our Magnificent Games on



Wednesday 12 August. We had four teams from our own WI, 'The Cabbages', 'Ageless Wonders', 'The Also Rans' and 'The four Musketeers'. Our guests from West Kent Federation, including a lady from Staplehurst WI, in a team otherwise known as 'The Feds Are Here!' and Marden WI with the winning team, 'Hopping Mad'. We played egg & spoon, chopstick challenge, boules (sort of!) croquet, book balancing and the unmissable wellie wangling! The grand finale was a competitive and messy egg white whisking!

Lots of laughter rolling back the years to when we were younger! In keeping with WI tradition, we sang Jerusalem as well as having an amazing produce and cake stall. Fantastic, inspiring, fun-loving women, living



our best lives!

Karen Bardoli (President Highgate Hawkhurst WI)



July, August and September are especially busy months for **ISTEAD RISE WI**. We are most fortunate that there is a large garden behind the Memorial Hall so July is time for our annual Garden Party,

with Pimms, strawberries & cream—followed by more cake and teas and coffee, with the chance to play some games and have a go at a tombola and raffle. Members and friends certainly relaxed this year many creeping under the shade of the trees!



August is time for the Art Show where members of the Art Group show off their skills. We have some very talented members, however Chris Wilson was the overall winner—well done. September is the Autumn show - there is usually a class someone can find to enter—whether garden produce, preserves, home baking and various crafts. We also heard about the work of Gravesham Street Pastors, out around the town keeping an eye on the vulnerable as evening draws to a close. Linda Wills



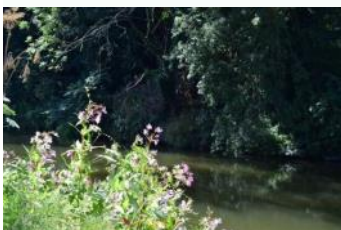
For our August meeting **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA** Bookettes met for a magnificent afternoon tea at The Friars, Aylesford Priory. Fantastic food in their beautiful Pilgrims Hall. Huge thanks to our leader Sheila for organising.



At our August craft meeting Marilyn showed us how to make these pretty pop up cards. Great fun was had by all. Huge thanks to Marilyn for her patience.



BARMING WI'S walking group has undertaken a series of walks along the banks of the Medway over the last few months, in connection with the WI's Week of River Action. We have taken binoculars and cameras to see what birds, insects and flowers we can spot along the way to help us understand how healthy the river is for wildlife.



Anne Logan



WEST PECKHAM WI CELEBRATES AN 'ACE' OF A BIRTHDAY

Our July meeting was our birthday party and were joined by Hadlow, Hildenborough and King's Hill WIs. The theme was Wimbledon and members were encouraged to arrive suitably dressed as tennis players, umpires, spectators etc and there was great participation. One Committee member also produced a super model of centre court! As part of the evening entertainment, we had a tennis-based quiz which was good fun and exercised our minds. Members enjoyed a lovely tea of sandwiches and cakes as well as strawberries and cream, tea and coffee with tables hosted and everyone served by Committee. Our speaker on this occasion was Nick Hampshire who gave an interesting and lively account of his life as an Art Historian accompanied by excellent slides and stories of missed purchases of masterpieces. Viv Bennet



The ladies from **GREENSLADE WI** held a cream tea at one of the members houses. Homemade cakes were provided by members of the committee with plenty of tea and coffee and the odd glass of fizz. The weather was perfect (not too hot) and a good time was had by all.

Sally



THE FARLEIGHS WI FELT FABULOUS!

This month's crafty challenge was to create a wet felted bag under the tuition of one of our members, Judy Balchin. Much fun was had as we rolled, rubbed and moulded our wools to create a bag decorated with roses. We will all be wearing them to our next meeting to show off our newly learned craft. Judy Balchin

Have You Experienced Fraud by Someone You Know? Your Story Could Help Protect Others

Fraud isn't always committed by strangers. For many people, it's carried out by someone they once trusted, such as a partner, family member, friend, or professional (accountant, carer, etc). These experiences can be complex, painful, and often hidden. Your voice could help change that.

A doctoral researcher at the University of Leicester is conducting an important study to understand how adults aged 65 and over experience and respond to fraud by people they know. The aim is to build a deeper, more compassionate understanding of these situations and to inform future support, safeguarding, and psychological practice.

If you take part, you'll be invited to a confidential interview lasting up to 75 minutes. You can choose to meet in person (East Midlands), online via Microsoft Teams, or by email, whatever feels most comfortable. All personal details will be anonymised, and your identity will be fully protected.

As a thank you for your time, you will receive a £20 Love2Shop voucher.

If this is something you feel able to contribute to, please get in touch: se220@leicester.ac.uk

Your experience matters, and it could help others stay safe.

Interviews to be completed by the end of November.

Events 2026

Learn the Art of Cobra Knot with Sarah Burn-Hilton

Thursday 19 November—Ethel Hunt Lodge

Cost per session (includes kit): Members £15 | Non-Members £20

Priority given to Members.

Please choose one session to attend:

- **Morning Session:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (*Doors open 9:30 am*)
- **Afternoon Session:** 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Please bring a mug for your tea/coffee which will be served on arrival.

Learn the cobra knot and it's many applications - from keyrings and macrame pots to Christmas wreaths.



Please will WI Reps indicate on the application (see back page) whether member will be attending the morning session or the afternoon session by **Friday 30 October**



SUTTON VALENCE WI – Awayday to Ramsgate

After meeting up at a lovely Ramsgate café, we promenaded along the harbour, with far reaching views over the swell. The sun beating down but there was a cooling breeze, we could have been in the South of France. The harbour was full of boats and yachts, all bobbing around on the blue sea. Delicious lunch was enjoyed at a Turkish restaurant, with excellent service and two-for-1 cocktails. Chatter and laughter pervaded the air and then it was time for a paddle! The sea was warm, so before long some members had tucked up their dresses and were having a splash

around!!! Sadly though, we were too stuffed to follow through with the obligatory ice cream. Ruth Lovering

Some members of **LYGHE WI** at our meeting on 2 September, wearing something purple for WI Day (in advance).

Chris Woodgate



Events 2026

Come to All Saints Maidstone on Wednesday 2 December 2026 at 11 am.

Enjoy the joy of advent in the ambience of a beautifully decorated medieval church. The event is free to WI members, family and friends with a retiring collection.

Please apply for tickets in the usual way to allow us to make a guess at seasonal catering. But don't let this stop you from arriving on the day to take part in the event.



If the WIs that are attending could also create a pew end wreath Which can be left to decorate the Church for the Festive season.

Please incorporate your WI Name in your design.

The photo bottom right is an example of a pew end.



in

Pew ends dimensions across, 15" /39cm.

A loop is needed to be able to hang the wreath from the pew ends.

Wreaths can be any medium depicting Christmas theme. MUST not be Fresh Flowers or Fresh Greenery. As this will not last the six weeks

The church has well over a thousand visitors to services and concerts during December.

It will look lovely to be decorated by West Kent WI



NEVILL WI'S annual summer lunch was its usual success with many of our members attending. As is our custom, it was held in a members garden and the weather, for a change, was just right. The company was excellent and the food, as WI tradition dictates, was in abundance - "WI, never knowingly under catered". Grateful thanks to our host, Jenny and everyone who made it such a success. Here's to next year.

Please note that we will **never** ask you to purchase vouchers on our behalf or request changes to banking information through informal communication channels (such as personal email, text message, or phone). If you receive such a request, do not act on it and report it immediately through your service supplier channels .

Deirdre, Gloria, and Jenny, from **TENTERDEN GLEBE WI** celebrating 111 years of the WI

As sent to WI Life



Kaye Moore Cup Art & Craft Competition

Works to be displayed at the Annual General Meeting
and judged on the day

Wednesday 17 March 2027



UPCYCLED AND RESTORED' IS THE THEME FOR 2027

Whether you are transforming an item of clothing into something different, or making a mosaic of miss-matched crockery use your imagination as to what else can be added to be reused. Use any embellishments that you have, that bit extra could make a difference.

Look around and give your artistic licence full range.

The maximum size for items is 18" x 15" x 8", which is the size of a 'bag for life'.

Please do not include any computer generated images

Works on paper to be presented in a mount. One entry per member.



Send/ deliver your entries - addressed as Kay Moore Cup

To: West Kent Federation of WIs Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells TN2 4AG

Please attach a label to the back of your work stating clearly your name,

Telephone number and name of your WI. Closing date Friday 26 February 2027



West Kent Federation Annual Poetry Competition 2027

Members are once again invited to compose a poem—the title this year is

'RESTORATION'

Please interpret this how you wish in 12 to 24 lines - Is it a big project like a house or a car or perhaps even a new way of life for yourself that you have restored! A favourite item that has found a new lease of life? Let your imagination run riot as you interpret this fascinating theme.

Please supply two copies - one with just your poem, the other with your poem and also your name, WI and contact details.

You Can Post to:

Annual Poetry Competition

West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes

Ethel Hunt Lodge

4 Hawkwell Business Centre

Maidstone Road, Pembury,

TN2 4AG

Or email to: FedSec@WKFWI.org.uk

Closing Date Friday 29 January 2027

The winner to be announced at the WKFWI AGM **17 MARCH 2027** and will be presented with a trophy (to keep for a year) and a certificate.

The winner will be offered the opportunity to read their poem at the AGM.

Art & Craft Workshop

In collaboration with East Sussex Federation
Monoprint
With tutor Curtis Tappenden
Speaker from Art & Craft Annual Day 2025
Saturday October 24 2026
At Crowborough Community Centre TN6 1FE
10am to 4pm



Curtis Tappenden will be hosting a fun, all-day workshop employing the historical and unique processes of monoprinting. Participants will be guided as a group and individually into using 'step-by-step' creative methods with water-based inks and paints to make intriguing one-off prints.

He will also outline the history of monoprinting with examples from famous proponents of the medium.

As the experimental nature of monoprinting means you cannot go wrong, this workshop is not about producing perfect pictures, but about being open to trying out new ways of making art. There is no right or wrong way to create images, and failure is impossible!

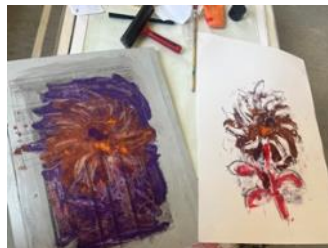
By the end of the day, everyone attending will have created a range of prints in black and white and colour, using various processes and will have developed their own personal methods of working. At the end of the session there will be a plenary time to share what has been achieved.

Tickets £35 to include all materials; from Eventbrite through this link:

www.eventbrite.com/e/1997700906187?aff=oddttdcreator

Arranged by East Sussex. Be aware that tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis, available from 1st September. WI members only. **There are still a few places available.**

Participants can bring their own painting brushes; print making is about printing from textures so bring items that have texture and can be rinsed off once the print is made such as textured washing up cloths, old children's Lego bricks, old toothbrushes or bubble wrap.



There is large free car park but be careful to go in a 23 hour space. There is a café but you are welcome to bring your own packed lunch and drinks.

Any questions contact Paula Bates, email: brian.paula@btinternet.com

For **MADGINFORD'S** August outing some of our members took a trip along the River Medway on the Kentish Lady. We had a three-hour trip to Teston Lock where we turned around and headed back to Maidstone. The cruise included a fish and chip lunch which was enjoyed by all and the weather was kind to us after an earlier downpour. A big thank you to the crew who took great care of us.

Ann Ovenden



LOOSE VALLEY WI had a strawberry afternoon tea in August in a member's garden, complete with Pimms!
Carole Burke



RHS Wisley Draw

As a Federation we are Associate Members of the RHS which entitles us to 50 tickets for a visit to RHS Wisley.

If your WI would like to enter into the draw for these tickets, which will be held at the AGM on Wednesday 17 March 2027, please complete the entry form.

Remember, this is for a ONE group visit of up to 50 people and you are welcome to include members from other WIs to use all the tickets.

The tickets will show the 'shelf life of the offer' usually the current year and you will have to arrange your own transport. This would be deemed an educational item and your WI could pay transport costs.

Applications can be submitted either by using this form or by letter or email.

Please make sure that all the information requested on the application box is included: WI, Contact Name, Address and Postcode, Tel No and Email.

West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes

WISLEY TICKETS

Please submit only one WI application – thank you

WI

would like to be included in the annual draw
for tickets to visit RHS Wisley
No transport is included in this offer

Contact Name

Address

..... Postcode

Tel No

Email

Apply to: FedSec@wkfwi.org.uk
or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge
clearly marked 'Wisley'

Closing Date: Friday 29 January 2027

WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIs

2027 Annual Bursary for Education in any subject

Please submit only one personal application – thank you – either on this form, or by email or letter

WI

Contact Name

Address

..... Postcode

Tel No Email

Apply to: FedSec@wkfwi.org.uk or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge clearly marked 'Bursary'

Closing Date: Friday 29 January 2027

Please note if you win a bursary at the 2027 AGM, you will not be eligible to enter again within the next five years

On a beautifully sunny day in August the **TUDOR ROSES WI** held their first Summer Garden Party generously hosted by a member in their delightful garden. Everybody enjoyed tea and cake in shady spots, a plant sale, tombola and crafty competition in the form of 'Fancy Hats'. Thanks go to Pauline for



hosting, Shirley for the tombola and everyone who helped make the afternoon such a success.

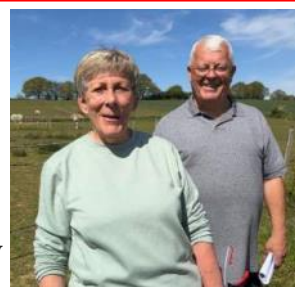
Jo Penn



CROCKENHILL HILL WI want to congratulate and highlight our lovely & meticulous WI Secretary, Pat Wells & her wonderful husband, Steve. Together they provided a fantastic afternoon of Pimms, Prosecco, food, fun & wonderful entertainment in their beautiful garden. Over 50 people attended. The weather was perfect making it a perfect day. To top it off Pat & Steve raised an amazing £926.62 for our village hall repairs and building fund.

Our village hall provides our WI together with many other village organisations a place to hold monthly meetings. Or Parties. Bazaars. Dinners. Special events. Annual events. Yoga, Pilates & Dance classes, musical events, quizzes etc. It's the heart of Crockenhill.

We applaud Pat and Steve for an outstanding achievement and for their hard work & enthusiasm they have given. Together with the fantastic total of money raised. Well done, and many thanks on behalf of the WI
Cheri Yeates



LENHAM WI held a Craft and Cream Tea event for the North Downs Group at Lenham Community Centre, on what was to be the hottest day of the year in August.

The afternoon event started with various craft demonstrations with members joining in. They ranged from card making, cross stitch and decoupage.



Many of the members showed their creative streaks, cross stitching their names for their name tags, making personal greeting cards and re-purposing empty glass jars.

Forty-three members from different WIs within the group had an enjoyable afternoon that was finished off with a Cornish Cream Tea, Cornish Smugglers Tea and Cornish Cream Shortbread biscuits, delivered from Cornwall the previous day. WIs included Bearsted and Thurnham, Bearsted Green, Madginford, Lenham and Leeds.

Rita King

Mary Dalman SI Bromley and WI member collected in from four local WIs in West Kent Federation, before the September SI Regional meeting, 12 Barry Sloths photographed five more have since arrived all carefully knitted and six beautifully made waterproof-lined wash bags. Members from Aperfield, Beckenham Belles, Coney Hall Village and Pratts Bottom WIs all contributed. A great example of collaborative working in action. Lovely work ladies!



A CUDDLE OF SLOTHS

The call for more is going out to all Soroptimist and WI clubs in West Kent Federation sadly demand constantly outstrips supply!!! It would be fantastic to be able to increase stocks substantially in the coming months. Team up with a few others and share a bulk buy of yarn to craft them more cheaply, some good deals out there on the web. Mary hopes more will arrive via attendees at WI meetings in late Sept to early November.....but contributions from anyone who can knit or crochet ,and who would like a winter project now the evenings are drawing in, your efforts will be greatly appreciated! This is an ongoing project initiated by SI South East Region's President in 2026, Roxanne St Clair.



OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that **Longfield WI** remembers **MARION ASPLIN**, a much loved

and long-standing member of our WI for over 40 years.

Marion gave generously of her time, enthusiasm and support. She was always keen to encourage others to join and become involved, helping to make Longfield WI the welcoming & friendly group it is today.

Her friendship, kindness, enthusiasm and commitment will be greatly missed by us all. We send our condolences to Marion's family & will remember her with great affection and gratitude.

Burham and Wouldham WI is sad to announce the death in August of **JILL WATTS**. Jill was a long standing and committed member of the WI, taking on the roles of Treasurer and MCS and known as a welcoming face to newcomers. Known in the villages for her time as a local SEN teacher she will be much missed.

Meopham WI is very sad that **LOUISE DALTON** has died. A member since the 1970's. Our music rep and choir leader for many years. Such a beautiful, happy, smiling lady and we have lovely memories of her and miss her.

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ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Congratulations and Obituaries (no more than 40 words) . If possible email direct to **westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk** If not please post to our Ethel Hunt Lodge address see top of page two.



Perhaps you might like to share with us, at the West Kent News, any Autumn colour photos that you have taken. Our email address is on the bottom right of this page. Thank you

Take the opportunity to win amazing prizes by taking part in the WI Lottery

You can support the West Kent Federation here: www.thewilottery.co.uk/support/west-kent-federation-of-wis



Please only order tickets via your nominated representative. Should this create a problem, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Please note: In the event that a workshop is oversubscribed/cancelled or there is a problem with the Tutor or venue the representative ordering the tickets will be notified. It will be the responsibility of the representative to notify the members wishing to attend the workshop/event. It is therefore important that the representative is aware of who is requesting tickets.

Ticket applications via email:

WI Reps Apply to: **tickets@wkwfi.org.uk** with your WI, Contact Name, Telephone number, event name, number of tickets required, date of event, and venue.

- Tickets are non refundable and non returnable.
- Places cannot be guaranteed until after the closing date.
- If an event is over-subscribed a ballot will take place.
- The Federation is not liable for additional costs or changes to a programme caused by circumstances beyond its control.
- Please apply for your tickets promptly, if an event is under subscribed by the closing date, the event may be cancelled.
- If open to non-members please state number required for members and non-members separately. Priority will always be given to members.